ZOE SALDANA LOOKS BACK ON HER 15-YEAR CAREER

SHE STAYS "OUT OF THE FURNACE" OF FAME. PAGE 20

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Back on the street. Cost, a groundbreaking graffiti artist from the 1990s, has returned with a vengeance after a long absence. **In vogue.** The former outlaw artist now finds his work fetching high prices by the mainstream art community. PAGE 02

RETURNING TO HIS ROOTS

Cost, the graffiti artist, is trying to figure out where he fits in after a long absence from the street art scene. / BLAISE CEPIS, ANIMAL NEW YORK

Lauper gets 'Unusual' again, but just for fun

PAGE 19

Let these unlikely exercise tips soak in

PAGE 22

Job advice: What would Goldie Hawn do?

PAGE 25

Jets cling to playoff hopes, but Giants done

PAGES 27-28

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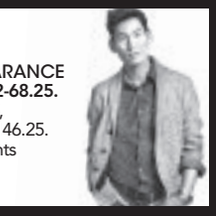

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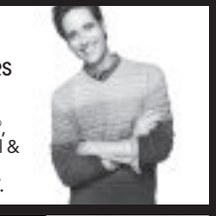

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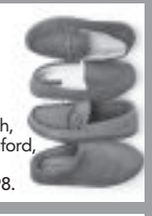

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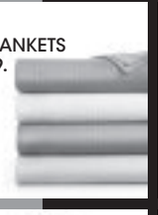

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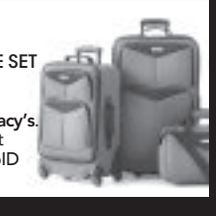

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2 FOR 24.99
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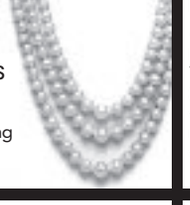

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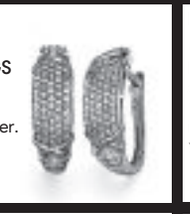
DIAMOND EARRINGS
Reg. $700, after 1pm: 367.50. 1 ct. t.w.‡ in sterling silver. ★ WebID 585849.



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Reg. 119.99, after 1pm: 69.99. **Only at Macy's.** In stainless steel (shown, ★ WebID 707382) or nonstick (★ 713667) by Tools of the Trade.

DOORBUSTER
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CUISINART
Reg. 149.99, after 1pm: 99.99. 8-cup food processor. #DLC6. ★ WebID 691644.

DOORBUSTER
40% OFF COFFEE, TEA & ESPRESSO MAKERS **Doorbuster 17.99-767.99.**
Reg. 29.99-1279.99, after 1pm: 24.99-899.99. For example: Cuisinart #DCC1200, (★ WebID 62864) & Keurig Single Serve, #K45 (★ 786173).

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1

NEWS

Quoted

"This administration has relied on data to drive its crime-fighting, and this map helps enhance New Yorkers' and researchers' understanding of where felony and violent crime persists."

New York Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, on the city's new interactive crime map

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 'VIDEO: Nelson Mandela's very first television interview, 1961'

2 'Jameis Winston blows off interviewer after sexual assault questions'

3 'Catholic school teachers fired after pre-wedding pregnancy revealed'

Graffiti art pioneer Cost catches his second wind

Elder statesman. The legendary street artist is making waves after a 16-year absence from the streets.

"Whatever direction the art world is going, I go the other way," said graffiti legend Adam "Cost." For years, he evaded the New York Police Department and assailed the streets with partner "Revs." The Queens native is now watching a scene that he helped create flourish, and he's trying to figure out where he fits in.

New Yorkers of the early 1990s didn't have to be versed in graffiti subculture to recognize Cost and Revs. Their names were plastered on thousands of posters — "Cost of Living," "God Saved Revs," "Birth, Paint, Death… Cost," "Taxi Driver Revs" — throughout the city. As that era ended, the street art bombing continued — but while their peers used elaborate lettering, Cost and Revs stayed legible and loud.

"It's getting too polished," Cost said of today's street art landscape. He said that today's street art is too "colorful," "perfected" and overflowing with legal murals.

Cost, who masks his face and real identity, returned in 2010 after a 16-year absence and has been back on city streets plastering his ubiquitous posters around the five boroughs.

The recent overnight whitewashing of 5Pointz, a legendary aerosol mecca in Long Island City, particularly offended him. The project is being turned into luxury high-rise living. Cost took to Instagram to rally his 43,00 followers, and he plans on handing over more than 600 of the comments to Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio.

"I can be proactive for the art community whether it be legal or illegal," he said.

Cost now finds himself an elder-statesman within the street art community, even as the mainstream art world is taking a more lucrative interest in his work. At Doyle New York's street art auction in April, a Cost-covered newspaper box sold for $11,875. Last year, a Cost and Revs piece fetched $31,250 at a Bonhams auction. It's no wonder thieves are peeling his posters off the walls and peddling the loot online.

And although he says he's staying true to his outlaw roots, Cost is also preparing for the next phase of his career. "Shamefully, on some levels, I can now call myself a working studio artist," he said.

BUCKY TURCO, MARINA GALPERINA

Bridging the gap

"We're the essence of NYC graffiti writers. We bridged the gap between street art and graffiti." **Cost** on he and his partner Revs

Cost has been putting up street art around the city for more than 20 years. / BLAISE CEPIS, ANIMAL NEW YORK

New beginning

Cost started his comeback in 2010 after a 16-year hiatus.

- "I almost felt as if I was an understudy to the whole process of street art because I was trying to update myself," he said.
- The following year, he partnered with animal rights enthusiast ENX. Together, they've been blanketing the city with posters.
- "We're on a mission from God, and God loves all creatures," he said.

ANIMALNewYork.com is a website that covers arts and culture in the city.
ANIMAL

Hot dog stands ousted from park

The hot dog stands will have to move in January. / GETTY IMAGES

If you find yourself craving a hot dog in Washington Square Park come New Year's Day, you may have to look elsewhere.

A private conservancy group intent on replacing "unsightly" hot dog stands with higher-end food options has convinced the Parks Department to ban purveyors of frankfurters from the space starting Jan. 1.

Several dozen food vendors and residents gathered on Sunday to protest the "privatization of public spaces."

Fighting hard

"We're going to keep up the pressure until the parks department lets these people stay."

Sean Basinski
Street Vendor Project founder

"We call on Mayor de Blasio, who attended New York University, Inc., to halt private, corporate and real estate interests from digging their claws deeper into Washington Square Park," the group's Facebook page said.

The event was organized by the Street Vendor Project and residents were mobilized by Cathryn Swan of Washington Square Park Blog. **EMILY JOHNSON**

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NYPD. Cops shoot man who attacked them with cane

A police officer shot a man after he allegedly hit the officer's partner in the face with a cane Saturday morning in Brooklyn, the NYPD said.

The two officers were on patrol near the elevated Myrtle Avenue subway station in Bed-Stuy at 10:35 a.m. when they reportedly saw Dairon Bledsoe, 27, hitting the hood of their parked patrol car with the cane.

Bledsoe took off running when the officers ordered him to stop. They gave chase following him until he came to a halt outside of a deli at 874 Broadway.

When the female officer confronted Bledsoe, he reportedly struck her, breaking the cane across her face, police said.

He was preparing to deliver another blow to the officer when the officer's partner shot him in the upper torso.

Bledsoe was then taken to Kings County Hospital in stable condition and was later arrested.

Multiple charges are pending, including felony assault, assault on a police officer and criminal possession of a weapon, the NYPD said.

EMILY JOHNSON

Drop the cane

Two officers in Brooklyn reportedly ordered Dairon Bledsoe, 27, to stop striking their patrol car with a cane.

- Bledsoe reportedly fled and hit a female officer in the face with the cane.
- As he was preparing to hit her again, the other officer shot him.

Adopt a pet with Metro and ASPCA

Moses, 1, is a gentle giant who hasn't met a person that he doesn't love. The big goofball loves to run and play in the morning, but settles down nicely at the end of the day to soothing belly rubs. He has also been known to forget his size and try to sit on laps for an ear scratch. To adopt Moses, stop by the ASPCA Adoption Center at 424 E. 92nd Street, visit Adoptaspca.org or call 212-876-7700, ext. 4120.

COURTESY OF THE ASPCA

Crime safety

Interactive map breaks crime down by street

New York City on Sunday released an interactive map that breaks down major felonies by neighborhood, right down to the street corner or address where they were committed.

The interactive map (maps.nyc.gov/crime) plots out what the city calls "the seven major New York State Penal Law felonies": murder, non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, felonious assault, burglary and grand larceny.

Users can enter addresses, zip codes or precincts to see what crimes have been committed near their homes or places of work. A color spectrum highlights the most crime-ridden precincts in the city. EMILY JOHNSON

HOPE: It's a New York Thing

Many still struggle a year after **Hurricane Sandy.** Emotional support is still available with Project Hope.

Move forward with Project Hope.
Watch the video; scan the code or visit **nyc.gov** and search "**Project Hope**."

Call 1-800-LIFENET
Connect with a Project Hope counselor.
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Project HOPE
NYC Health

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Al Sharpton, right, said his mind was changed by Bratton's time as police chief in LA. / WILLIAM ALATRISTE

Bratton hailed by former foe Al Sharpton

Returning cheer. The two clashed when Bratton ran the NYPD back in the 1990s.

Incoming NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton was given a welcome over the weekend by an unlikely figure: Rev. Al Sharpton, who was a frequent critic of the future top cop back when Bratton ran the department in the 1990s.

Speaking before the National Action Network in Harlem on Saturday with both Bratton and Mayor-elect Bill de Blasio in attendance, Sharpton said it was Bratton's work in Los Angeles during the intervening years that changed his mind.

"They kept telling me the police chief is really trying to bring the city together, and I, you know me, I said 'Who, Bratton?'" Sharpton said to laughter. "But after about a year of everybody working together and crime going down, and they were saying this thing is working, I said, 'You're talking about my man Bill, you know, from home!'"

Sharpton also invoked recently departed South African icon Nelson Mandela, in whose memory NAN was holding the event, to offer cautionary words for the future.

"You cannot mourn Mandela and then profile his grandchildren," Sharpton said, referring to the NYPD's controversial practice of stop-and-frisk.

Compassionate police

"My commitment to you is that your police force in your city will be respectful."
Bill Bratton

EMILY JOHNSON
letters@metro.us

In Brooklyn

Boy burned after setting self on fire

A 10-year-old East New York boy was in serious condition on Saturday after setting his clothes on fire.

The boy is thought to have been playing with candles at his family's Bradford Street home before setting his clothes ablaze. **EMILY JOHNSON**

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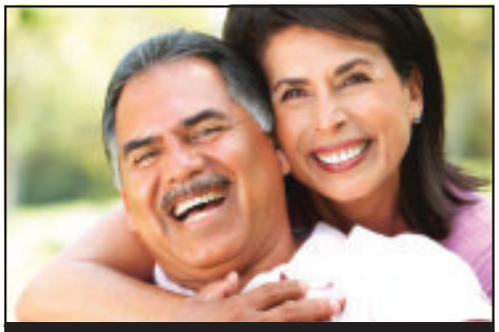

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Metro-North must upgrade its safety

Federal order. The rail company will have to add new safety measures after last week's deadly derailment.

Investigators comb through the rubble of the train wreck searching for clues. / GETTY IMAGES

Following a deadly derailment in the Bronx on Sunday, Dec. 1, federal regulators issued an emergency order on Friday requiring Metro-North Railroad to implement safety measures to make sure its crews did not exceed speed limits.

Investigators have said the train was traveling nearly three times the 30 mph speed limit when it left the tracks near the end of its run from Poughkeepsie to Grand Central Station. Four people died in the accident and 70 more were injured. In its emergency instruction to Metro-North, the Federal Railroad Administration ordered the railroad to provide, this week, a "list of main track locations" where a reduction of more than 20 mph is required for passenger trains.

The regulator also ordered the railroad to come up with modifications to its existing control systems, including one that is supposed to automatically apply brakes to provide advance warning about excessive train speed.

METRO, REUTERS

More protection

"While we assist the National Transportation Safety Board in carrying out its investigation, this emergency order will help ensure other Metro-North trains travel at appropriate, safe speeds."
Anthony Foxx
U.S. Transportation Secretary

Analysis

Protecting the riding public

Metro-North must have two operators in the locomotive cab or control cab when trains are traveling through track areas where speeds drop 20 mph or more until signal upgrades are completed, the federal agency said.

In an statement, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which operates Metro-North, said it would comply.

"The MTA is working closely with the Federal Railroad Administration to review our policies and procedures in light of Sunday's tragic derailment, and we will of course comply with whatever requirements the FRA directs us to follow," the agency said.

School to be named for Mandela

A Brooklyn high school will be named in honor of late South African President Nelson Mandela, who had received a hero's welcome when he visited the campus on a tour calling for an end to apartheid, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said on Friday.

Mandela, who became the first president of post-apartheid South Africa, died on Thursday at the age of 95.

The high school, slated to open in September, will be named the Nelson Mandela School for Social Justice, according to Bloomberg and the city's Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott.

The Bedford–Stuyvesant school will be carved out of an existing building at the Boys and Girls High School campus, which Mandela visited in 1990.

The Boys and Girls High School has been under the threat of closure after failing three city reviews in a row. The school's alumni include Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, composer Aaron Copeland and singer Lena Horne.

METRO, REUTERS

Incarcerated

27

The number of years that Nelson Mandela spent in prison.

Nelson Mandela
GETTY IMAGES

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People leave flowers, candles and messages in Houghton, Johannesburg. / GETTY IMAGES

South Africa

Passing of a legend. Mourners pray for South Africa's first black president and anti-apartheid leader who died Thursday at age 95.

With hymns and eulogies, South Africans of all colors and creeds remembered Nelson Mandela in a day of prayers on Sunday, holding him up as a symbol of freedom, forgiveness and hope for the nation and the world.

At churches, mosques, synagogues and community halls from the Limpopo River to the Cape, millions offered praise and reflected on a man celebrated as "Father of the Nation" and as a global beacon of integrity, rectitude and reconciliation.

Mandela, South Africa's first black president who steered his nation out of apartheid and into multiracial democracy, died on Thursday at the age of 95 after months of illness.

Since then, the country has been gripped by an outpouring of emotion unrivaled since Mandela's release from 27 years of prison in 1990 and his subsequent election victory. Crowds have piled flowers, candles, balloons and messages outside his Johannesburg home.

At the cavernous Regina Mundi church in Soweto, South Africa's largest Catholic Church, hundreds of mourners, young and old, gathered to pray for Mandela and the nation's future.

"People are praying that there will be change, that we will come together," said Gladys Simelane, an office manager.

Mandela's former wife Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, dressed in black, attended a Methodist service in the northern Johannesburg suburb of Bryanston, where President Jacob Zuma hailed the values of the country's most beloved statesman.

"He believed in forgiveness and he forgave even those who kept him in jail for 27 years," Zuma said in a eulogy.

"He stood for freedom. He fought against those who oppressed others. He wanted everyone to be free."

The day of prayers opens an official program of mourning that includes a memorial service in a Johannesburg stadium on Tuesday and a state funeral next Sunday at Mandela's Eastern Cape ancestral home of Qunu — expected to be one of the biggest gatherings of world leaders in recent history.

Fifty-nine foreign heads of state or government have so far said they will attend the memorial or the funeral, a foreign ministry spokesman said. Large contingents of royalty and celebrities are also expected.

"The fact that international leaders are making their way to South Africa at such short notice re-

In attendance

President Barack Obama, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and British Prime Minister David Cameron will be among those at Tuesday's memorial.

Quoted

"He stood for freedom. He fought against those who oppressed others. He wanted everyone to be free."

Zuma, in a eulogy

mourns Mandela

Services

Locals, tourists flock to tribute

In Cape Town's St. George's Cathedral, where anti-apartheid campaigners sought solace and refuge in the 1980s, some in the packed congregation of locals and tourists shed tears during a tribute to Mandela by the Anglican dean, Michael Weeder.

"He was an exposition of the African spirit of generosity," said Weeder. "And as he dies, he lives again and again. He is resurrected in every act of kindness."

At the Rivers Pentacostal Church in Johannesburg, mourners, some draped in South African flags, watched a video hailing the Nobel Peace Prize laureate as "a rare man, a true non-racist and a breed of politicians South Africa needs again."

In a country where many follow evangelical denominations, some held outdoor services in fields and parks. Muslims in the mostly Indian neighborhood of Lenasia in south Johannesburg held a commemoration in a local hall. Newspaper editorials urged South Africans and the world to learn from a man hailed as "the Great Reconciler.'

flects the special place President Mandela holds in the hearts of people around the globe," Presidency Minister Collins Chabane said.

Mandela's passing, though long expected as he succumbed slowly to a lung ailment dating back to his days in the notorious Robben Island penal colony, has plunged South Africans into soul-searching mode, six months before presidential and legislative elections.

President Jacob Zuma's ruling African National Congress faces a clamor of calls for better leadership after several years in which South Africa has experienced violent labor unrest, corruption scandals and growing protests against poverty, crime and unemployment.

REUTERS

Coming to terms as a nation

'I am not a saint'

Capturing the national mood of reverence, South Africa's most famous cartoonist, Zapiro, published a drawing of Mandela's tranquil face, eyes closed, sinking over the horizon like a setting sun on the sea, while an awed crowd looked on.

"I don't think we will ever have anybody like him. I compare him to Jesus Christ," said Shadrack Motau, a Soweto resident.

The week of mourning and funeral events split between Johannesburg, the capital Pretoria where Mandela's body will lie in state, and the Qunu funeral site, will present the government with its biggest logistical and organizational test since South Africa successfully hosted the 2010 World Cup.

Chabane said a new statue of Mandela would be unveiled at the government's Union Buildings on Dec. 16, "Reconciliation Day." Under apartheid, this day commemorated the 1838 Battle of Blood River, in which fewer than 500 Afrikaners defeated more than 10,000 Zulus, but it was renamed in 1994 in a bid to heal the wounds of three centuries of white dominance.

Despite the global homage, and although streets across South Africa and the world bear his name, Mandela during his life had pushed back against excessive hero-worship.

"I am not a saint, unless you think of a saint as a sinner who keeps on trying," said the man with a beguiling smile who time and again charmed enemies, celebrities and ordinary people.

Quoted

"I am not a saint, unless you think of a saint as a sinner who keeps on trying."

Mandela

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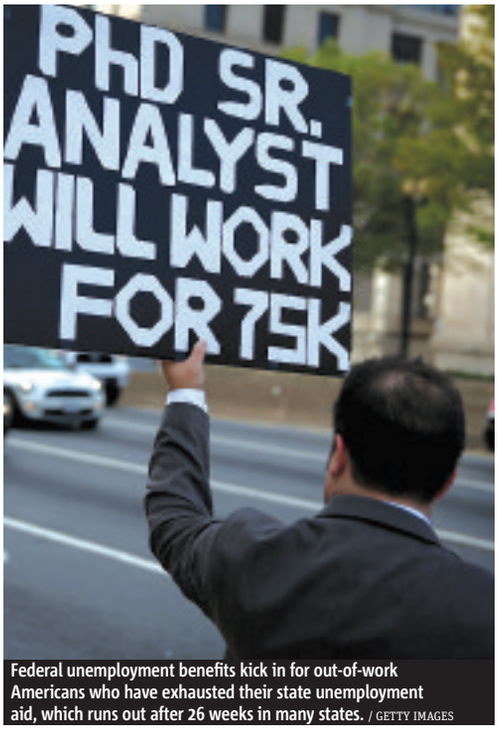
Shortcut to hydrogen is a step closer to cleaner fuel

Scientists have produced hydrogen by accelerating a natural process found in rocks deep below the Earth's surface, a shortcut that may herald the wider use of what is a clean fuel, a study showed on Sunday.

Used in rockets and in battery-like fuel cells, hydrogen is being widely researched as a non-polluting fuel, but its use is so far hampered by high costs. A few hydrogen vehicles are already on the roads, such as the Honda FXC Clarity and Mercedes-Benz F-Cell, and more are planned. REUTERS

Democrats wouldn't reject budget deal over jobless aid

Deal. Democrats see it as one of the best legislative vehicles for passing an extension of the jobless aid.



Federal unemployment benefits kick in for out-of-work Americans who have exhausted their state unemployment aid, which runs out after 26 weeks in many states. / GETTY IMAGES

A senior Democrat said on Sunday he hoped an emerging deal on the U.S. budget would include an extension of unemployment benefits, but added that his party would not necessarily walk away from an agreement that left it out.

"I don't think we've reached that point where we've said, 'This is it, take it or leave it,'" Sen. Richard Durbin told the program "This Week," when pressed on whether his party would insist on including jobless aid in a final deal.

Durbin, the second-ranking Senate Democrat, said that based on what he has heard from Sen. Patty Murray, the lead Democratic negotiator on the budget, the fiscal talks are making progress and moving in the right direction.

The House of Representatives and Senate budget panel, created after the government shutdown in October, is discussing a two-year accord that would ease the impact of across-the-board spending cuts known as the "sequester" and lower the near-term risk of another damaging fiscal showdown.

Durbin's comments signaled some flexibility on the jobless aid issue. House of Representatives Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said last week that Democrats "cannot support" a budget deal without an extension of unemployment insurance. Pelosi later clarified that she would like to see jobless benefits included in the budget deal but that she would be open to the idea of passing it under separate legislation. REUTERS

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Defense chief

Hagel to visit Pakistan for talks with prime minister

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel will travel to Pakistan today for talks with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and other senior officials. And he'll be the first Pentagon chief to visit Islamabad in nearly four years, a spokesman said.

People protested against U.S. drones in Pakistan. / GETTY IMAGES

Hagel announced the Pakistan trip while talking to U.S. troops at Camp Leatherneck in southwestern Afghanistan, where he was on a two-day visit to consult with senior U.S. and Afghan officials and pay a holiday tribute to American forces.

The Pakistan visit comes amid renewed tensions over U.S. drone strikes as well as a threat to U.S. equipment being shipped from Afghanistan across Pakistan to the port of Karachi. REUTERS

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Afghanistan, Iran plan cooperation compact amid US tensions

The U.S. bilateral security pact is a decade-long agreement that would provide a legal basis for about 8,000 U.S. troops to stay on after the NATO-led combat mission ends next year. / GETTY IMAGES

Issue. Iran has opposed NATO in Afghanistan and is the only country to ask Karzai not to sign it.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai agreed on a cooperation pact with Iran on Sunday, an Afghan official said, while continuing to resist signing a long-term security agreement with the United States.

Karzai struck the deal with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in Tehran in a move that will be greeted with suspicion by his U.S. ally, which is trying to convince him to sign the security accord governing any post-2014 U.S. presence in Afghanistan.

"Afghanistan agreed on a long-term friendship and cooperation pact with Iran," Karzai's spokesman Aimal Faizi said.

He said a formal document would be prepared and signed soon.

In August, Afghanistan signed a strategic cooperation pact with Iran covering mainly security issues, but Faizi said the proposed new agreement would have much broader scope.

Many Afghans believe such a bargain with Iran, at odds with the United States since the 1979 Islamic revolution, may harm Afghanistan's uneasy relationship with its Western allies. REUTERS

Quoted

"The pact will be for long-term political, security, economic and cultural cooperation, regional peace and security." Aimal Faizi

Hammer attack

Ukraine protesters fell Lenin statue in challenge to Yanukovich

Anti-government protesters toppled a statue of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin in Ukraine's capital and attacked it with hammers on Sunday in a symbolic challenge to President Viktor Yanukovich and his plans for closer ties with Russia.

The gesture rejecting Moscow's historic influence over Ukraine came after opposition leaders told hundreds of thousands of demonstrators on Kiev's Independence Square to keep up pressure on Yanukovich to sack his government.

The protesters are furious that the government decided last month to ditch a landmark pact with the European Union in favor of closer economic cooperation with Moscow, Ukraine's Soviet-era overlord.

Yanukovich's sudden tack toward Russia has provoked the biggest street protests since the 2004-2005 Orange Revolution. REUTERS

A protester wearing a mask climbs a ladder to attach a cable and prepares to pull down a statue of Lenin. / GETTY IMAGES

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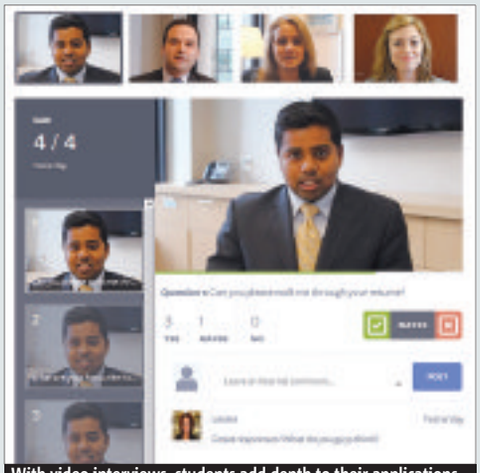
Tech

Video interviews aim to make applications more personal



With video interviews, students add depth to their applications.
PROVIDED

In the pile of paperwork and testing that is an application to a college or graduate program, an interview can be a chance to shine. One new site is trying to make conducting those interviews easier. Instead of flying prospective students to the school or arranging a cattle call day of interviews, Kira Talent lets students interview virtually.

The program is in use at schools across Canada, as well as the Yale School of Management.

Interviews begin with a short introduction that plays for the candidate, followed by a practice question so that prospective students can get used to the software. As each interview question comes up, students have a few seconds to formulate an answer before giving a timed response.

The idea, according to CEO and co-founder Emilie Cushman, is to add a bit of dimension to the candidate recruiters usually only see on paper.

"It's shocking that we're in 2013 and making such critical decisions based on text and how well people can write," Cushman says. "When you're recruiting people from all over the world, to base who you're going to fly out to visit your university based on an essay — that's a big investment."

Though Kira Talent is being used more widely Canada than in the U.S., Cushman says that it's picking up speed. "I wouldn't say it's the wave of the future," Cushman says, "I'd say it's the wave of right now." JULIA FURLAN

Inside the furry suit: The Fordham Ram

Comeback. Sophomore Ryan Thornton has been on the forefront of the Rams' dominant football season.

Friendly ram

At the game

Thornton, who says he hopes to be the Ram until he graduates, says the mascot's personality can change from game to game. "I do like being a fierce ram — the animal itself is actually very aggressive, so I definitely am rowdy on the court and on the football field," he says.

He energizes them by dancing, but he also wins a lot of attention by being approachable. "I make sure I'm friendly — I go up into the crowd, give high-fives to people."

It can be hard to keep the crowd on its feet when a team isn't doing so well, but Thornton tries to channel positivity through the Ram. "You just gotta keep clapping, lifting your hands, try to get the crowd to stand up and support the team," he says. "The team has to feed off the crowd."

Ask any recent Fordham alum about the university's sports teams, and you might get a bit of a snicker. Despite Fordham's famed sports history — Vince Lombardi was a football player on the Seven Blocks of Granite, the lineup that dominated the 1930s — lately the school's point of pride has been academics.

But all that changed this year: the football team ended the season 12-2, a school record for most wins in a season. The Rams also won their first-ever home NCAA FCS playoff game against Sacred Heart last month.

Standing in the center of the action is Fordham sophomore Ryan Thornton, the Nutley, N.J., native who's been the Ram mascot since his second semester of freshman year. He says a lifelong love of Fordham sports motivated him to become the campus' famous tumbling ball of fur.

"Both of my parents graduated from Fordham, and as a kid I would always go to Fordham games," he says. "The Ram was always my favorite guy to go up to give a high-five to. I always told my parents, 'I'm gonna be the Ram one day.'"

After a tryout with the school cheerleaders, Thornton got the job. He goes to the gym about twice a week because being the Ram requires a good deal of athleticism.

Not to mention, he performs in an extremely hot costume, the head of which alone weighs about 30 pounds. "It definitely gives you a strong neck," he says.

Only a select few know of his high-profile gig. "The mascot never takes off the head. No one ever knows the identity. I think it's a tradition," he says.

"THE RAM WAS ALWAYS MY FAVORITE GUY TO GO UP TO GIVE A HIGH-FIVE TO. I ALWAYS TOLD MY PARENTS, 'I'M GONNA BE THE RAM ONE DAY,'" THORNTON SAYS.

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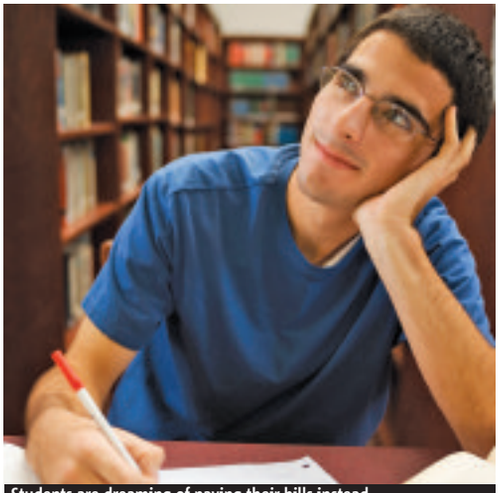
Practical isn't perfect

Achievers. Some chase dreams, others chase paychecks.



Students are dreaming of paying their bills instead of the footlights, a recent report finds. / FUSE

ACT, the nonprofit testing company that helps students prepare for college, released a report last month regarding how today's students choose a major. It found that close to a third of incoming freshmen are enrolling not in a field that interests them, but rather one that will help them land steady, well-paying jobs after graduation. It sounds like a practical — though less than exciting — college plan, but that doesn't mean it's a wise move.

This isn't the first time this trend has surfaced. "It's interesting that this phenomenon is happening again," says organizational psychologist Dr. Billie Blair. "It was a prevalent practice 20 to 30 years ago when so many were encouraged to go into medicine because of the excellent pay."

A steady paycheck is a wonderful thing, especially right out of college. It's important for freshmen to remember, too, that their sanity and happiness also come into play when choosing a major. "No doubt about it, in today's economic environment students need to be practical in selecting majors," states Carol A. Sitterly, dean for academic success at American International College. "But they also need to select majors and career fields that they can feel passionate about over the next 40 years of their working life."

Keeping that passion alive and active isn't always easy when graduates are struggling to find work. Like so many things in life, being able to strike the right balance can make all the difference.

"The critical question is whether [students] can find a space in that world that they are good at and that they can get excited about even as they chase a paycheck," says Rita McGrath, Associate Professor at Columbia Business School. McGrath reminds us that no matter how much time a student puts into the decision-making process, things can change while at school. "Very few students find that their careers unfold as they predicted, so the choice of major is probably a much smaller determinant of ultimate outcomes than we might assume," she says.

JULIA WEST
letters@metro.us

Quoted

"They also need to select majors and career fields that they can feel passionate about over the next 40 years of their working life."

Carol A. Sitterly, dean for academic success at American International College

Change-up

Switching majors

The dreams versus paychecks debate isn't just for incoming students, it also affects students thinking about changing majors. The best way to figure it out is with the resources that are already available. "Students thinking about changing majors should take an interest inventory and talk with an academic or career advisor about what jobs match their interests," says Sitterly.

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2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

We check in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Kirstie Alley is a job creator, Joss Whedon demands more introspection and Patton Oswalt is making a fashion statement.

@kirstiealley: I've always read ALL tweets sent to me..the kid next door is looking for a job.Going to hire him to PRE block before I read from now on :)

@josswhedon: You can only say "but not in a gay way" so many times before you have to reassess SOMETHING

@pattonoswalt: At Whole Foods. Raining, and all I had to wear is my wife's pink hat. Getting some complimentary looks, though.

Susan Boyle says she has Asperger's

Susan Boyle revealed she has been diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome. /ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"It is a relief. Asperger's doesn't define me. It's a condition that I have to live with and work through, but I feel more relaxed about myself. People will have a greater understanding of who I am and why I do the things I do."

In an interview with the Observer, **Scottish singer Susan Boyle** revealed she has been diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism, saying a specialist diagnosed her more than a year ago.

Barron Hilton blames Lohan for beating

Did Lindsay Lohan order a hit on Barron Hilton, Paris Hilton's little brother, over the weekend?

That is what the Hilton clan is claiming, saying Lohan had someone beat up the 24-year-old rich kid for talking smack about her while at a party at a Miami mansion on Friday night. The attack was so bad, it landed Hilton at the hospital where he posted a photo of his messed up face on Instagram. In the comments, big sis Paris wrote, "They both will pay for what they did. No one f—s with my family and gets away with it!!" She was so angry, she used not one, but two, red-faced emoticons.

Why is it that the richer some people are, the more they act like low-rent mafia members?

Blanchett glitters in Dubai in Valentino

Cate Blanchett stopped my fashion-hating heart in this simple yet dashing Valentino Spring 2014 gown paired with a Herve Van Der Straeten gold necklace at the 10th Annual Dubai International Film Festival on Friday in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

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Still 'Unusual' after all these years

See more at www.metro.us

Lauper is pictured here in her "Unusual" phase. She performs the full album tonight at the Highline Ballroom (431 W. 16th St.). Visit www.ticketweb.com for more info. / SONY MUSIC ARCHIVE

She-bop. Cyndi Lauper revisits the album that gave the world "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" three decades ago.

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of her breakthrough solo debut, Cyndi Lauper is not only performing "She's So Unusual" in its entirety, but she's also sharing stories that may make listeners exclaim that title phrase.

"When I recorded 'She Bop' I wanted the producers to run a wire from the control booth to the rehearsal room where Kiss had their stuff," she remembers. "I felt comfortable enough to sing freely because I was uninhibited and nobody was watching. … So I wound up actually taking my shirt off to feel free, which is hard to explain to a man, because you grow up and you take your shirt off whenever you want and women can't."

The story even gets a little more unusual.

"Actually, I tickled myself to make myself laugh," Lauper reveals with an echo of the laugh that's captured in the song. "I mean it was so ridiculous I just started laughing. So that is the laugh on the song and then of course as soon as that album became popular and 'She Bop' became popular, then all of a sudden there's a lot of people laughing on their albums. And I always used to think to myself, 'Well I know what I was doing, but what were they doing?'"

But what may be the most unusual thing about Lauper doing an "Unusual" tour at this point in her career is that she has achieved so much recently by focusing on the present. She wrote the lyrics and music for the Broadway smash "Kinky Boots," which won six Tony Awards this year.

"With the success of the show on Broadway and the Tonys, I feel like people actually do want to hear my new music, and I have a venue for it, so it doesn't feel like an oldies show that I have to do," she says. "This is the first time I've done anything like this and it will probably be the last. ... It's an interesting journey for me to look back."

Behind the tune

Girls just want to do the song right

"Girls Just Want to Have Fun" was written and originally sung by a man — Robert Hazard — and the song's message was misogynistic. When the phone rings in the middle of the night, it's all because girls are making booty calls to "have fun" with him.

"I said, 'The way Robert recorded this, it's not gonna work,'" recalls Lauper about a conversation she had with producer Rick Chertoff. "I said, 'This story can't work. I don't know what you expect.' And he looked at me and said, 'Well, think of what it could mean. It could be an anthem.'"

Lauper took out any trace of trampiness and made it about partying, and an anthem was born.

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ZOE SALDANA

The "Out of the Furnace" star prefers to only watch her movie twice.

AMONG THE GREATS

GETTY IMAGES

Zoe Saldana is in some pretty good company in "Out of the Furnace," co-starring alongside Christian Bale, Forest Whitaker, Woody Harrelson, Casey Affleck, Willem Dafoe and Sam Shepard in director Scott Cooper's follow-up to "Crazy Heart." Just don't expect her to watch it more than twice.

This movie has quite the impressive ensemble.
When I heard these names I really prayed that it was going to be everybody that joined the cast, because those are actors that I've always wanted to work with. And to actually have them all together, it's like having pizza, cheeseburgers and ice cream at the same time.

Some actors can't stand watching their own films. How about you?
I only have it in me for maybe two screenings, and then after that I can't do it. I like to see it and feel very happy for everything, then the second time you're watching it and you're paying attention to what everybody's doing. And then after the third time it's going to be about everything else — "Oh, my hair ..." "Did they have to use this take?" After the third screening you just can't watch it anymore. You revisit it every two or three years when a family member forces you to sit down with them and watch it while they hold your hand.

You have to give family members a little leeway.
Yeah. Like my poor grandma, she's been asking me to give her an autograph since I did "Center Stage" 15 years ago. And I'm not going to write my grandmother an autograph. That's just ridiculous. I'm your granddaughter. You get to cook for me. And if one day I'm sick you get to heal me. I'm not going to sign my name on a picture of myself and go, "Here, Grandma!" It's just uncomfortable.

Blast from the past

Time flies

Has it really been 15 years since "Center Stage"?
Are you kidding? I turned 21 on that movie, and now it's like even if I wanted to play a high school student, I could never. That's the way I would see it sometimes, going, "OK, I'm 26 today, but I can still play like I'm in high school." And then that one day I remember I said it for the last time and [my agent] was the one that said, "Uh … no." I never thought about it again.

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Katniss Everdeen loses spot at No. 1

Box office. In its second weekend, Disney's "Frozen" triumphs over "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire."

"Frozen"'s snowman (Josh Gad) celebrates its victory. / DISNEY

Walt Disney Co.'s animated princess fairy tale "Frozen" heated up movie box office charts in the United States and Canada, displacing dystopian thriller "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" as the top-earning film.

"Frozen" sold $31.6 million worth of tickets from Friday through Sunday during its second weekend in theaters to top domestic movie charts, while "Catching Fire" earned $27 million, according to studio estimates from Rentrak.

The weekend's only new nationwide release, crime thriller "Out of the Furnace," a gritty drama with Christian Bale and Casey Affleck, took a distant third place with $5.3 million.

Global sales for "Frozen" climbed to $190 million through Sunday, Disney said. The 3-D movie, inspired by "The Snow Queen" fairy tale, features the voice of Kristen Bell as a Scandinavian princess intent on finding her sister, the Queen, who has the power to freeze anything with a touch.

"Catching Fire," the second of the "Hunger Games" films, brought its global total to a massive $673.4 million, according to distributor Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.

Rounding out the charts, Marvel superhero sequel "Thor: The Dark World," which stars Chris Hemsworth, earned $4.7 million. "Delivery Man," featuring Vince Vaughn as a sperm donor who fathers more than 500 children, finished fifth, grossing $3.8 million. REUTERS

Top 3 earners

1. **'Frozen'** $31.6 million
2. **'The Hunger Games: Catching Fire'** $27 million
3. **'Out of the Furnace'** $5.3 million

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Bathtub Pilates

Flat bubbles and a wet book don't have to end a bath. Soak a little longer, and do some Pilates — yes, in the tub.

Why try Pilates in the tub? In the dead of winter, running a hot bath is one of the quickest ways to thaw a stiff, frozen body. "The warm water relaxes the muscles, allowing them to become more malleable," Brooke Siler, author of "The Women's Health Big Book of Pilates," and Madonna's former trainer, tells Metro.

"Once they're in that state, it's a really nice place to try and foster a bit more flexibility than you might get from, say, dynamically attempting to stretch out cold muscles, which tend to tear more easily," she adds. Try the moves here while soaking for a firm tummy.

See more at www.metro.us

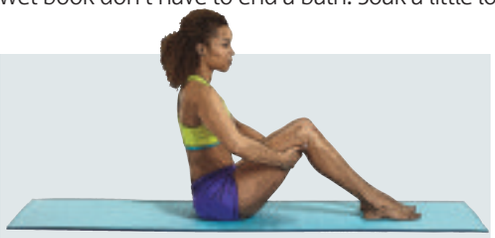
ROMINA McGUINNESS
romina.mcguinness@metro.lu

PLUS

Tip

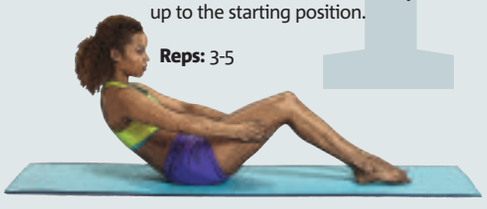
When you get out of the bath, don't go directly in a cold area, she warns: "After expansion comes contraction — so do your best to stay warm, and allow your muscles to cool down naturally once you get out. Because if you don't, they'll just seize right back up."

1 THE ROLL BACK



A: Sit with your knees bent and your feet flat, approximately 2 feet from your bottom. Place your hands behind your thighs, keeping your elbows wide, bottom engaged and abs pulled in. Knees should be hip-width apart.

B: Inhale with control as you curl your bottom under and roll halfway back. Press your feet down. Hold for a count of three. Exhale as you roll up to the starting position.



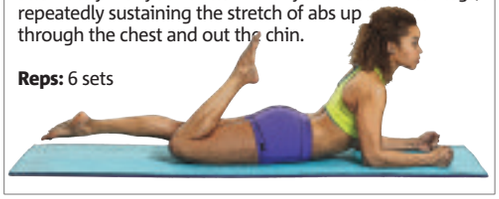
Reps: 3-5

2 SINGLE LEG KICKS

A: You may want to drain some of the water out for this move. Lie facedown with your upper body propped up on your elbows and with tight fists. Your arms are shoulder-width apart and your elbows are aligned directly under. Your chest is lifted high, the pubic bone is anchored to the bottom of the tub (as much as you can), and the inner thighs are pressed tightly together.

B: Maintaining this position, lift both knees 2 inches, and alternately kick your bottom with your heels. Switch legs, repeatedly sustaining the stretch of abs up through the chest and out the chin.

Reps: 6 sets



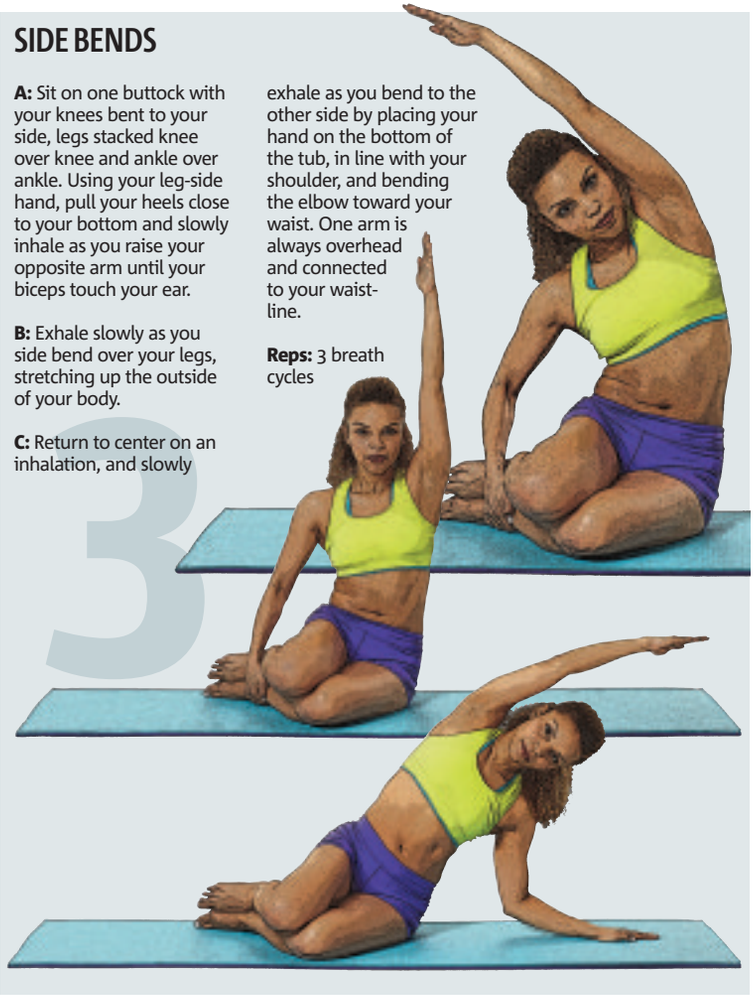
3 SIDE BENDS

A: Sit on one buttock with your knees bent to your side, legs stacked knee over knee and ankle over ankle. Using your leg-side hand, pull your heels close to your bottom and slowly inhale as you raise your opposite arm until your biceps touch your ear.

B: Exhale slowly as you side bend over your legs, stretching up the outside of your body.

C: Return to center on an inhalation, and slowly exhale as you bend to the other side by placing your hand on the bottom of the tub, in line with your shoulder, and bending the elbow toward your waist. One arm is always overhead and connected to your waistline.

Reps: 3 breath cycles



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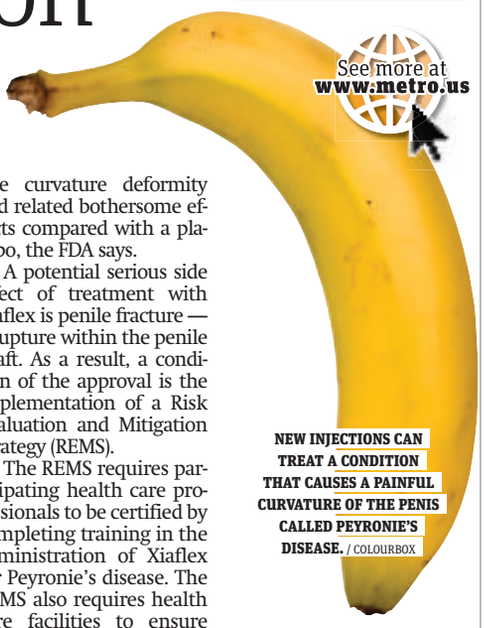
Drug to treat bent penis condition gets FDA nod

Treatment. Those suffering from Peyronie's disease may have a cure.



NEW INJECTIONS CAN TREAT A CONDITION THAT CAUSES A PAINFUL CURVATURE OF THE PENIS CALLED PEYRONIE'S DISEASE. / COLOURBOX

U.S. health regulators on Friday approved Auxilium Pharmaceuticals Inc's Xiaflex injections to treat a condition that causes a painful curvature of the penis called Peyronie's disease.

It marks the second U.S. approval for Xiaflex, which in 2010 received a Food and Drug Administration nod to treat Dupuytren's contracture — a condition in which hardening of the connective tissue collagen in the hands bends fingers toward the palm, leaving patients unable to straighten their hands or use their fingers properly.

Xiaflex is now the first FDA-approved non-surgical treatment option for men with Peyronie's disease who have a plaque buildup in the penis that results in a curvature deformity of at least 30 degrees upon erection, the agency says.

The drug is injected directly into the collagen buildup to break it down in order to help restore normal function to the penis or hands.

Treatment for Peyronie's would consist of a maximum of four treatment cycles, the FDA says. Each treatment cycle consists of two Xiaflex injections directly into the collagen-containing structure of the penis, and one penile modeling procedure — a massaging of the treated area by a health care professional to help further break down the plaque or scar tissue.

In clinical trials, Xiaflex significantly reduced penile curvature deformity and related bothersome effects compared with a placebo, the FDA says.

A potential serious side effect of treatment with Xiaflex is penile fracture — a rupture within the penile shaft. As a result, a condition of the approval is the implementation of a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS).

The REMS requires participating health care professionals to be certified by completing training in the administration of Xiaflex for Peyronie's disease. The REMS also requires health care facilities to ensure that Xiaflex is dispensed only for use by certified health care professionals, the FDA says.

The most common adverse reactions associated with Xiaflex for Peyronie's treatment include penile bruising, swelling and pain. **REUTERS**

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Tips to better sleep
"The body craves routine," says Epstein. To that end, here are some tips to help establish and maintain your personal sleep pattern:
• Go to bed at the same time and get up at the same time every day.
• Set aside enough time for sleep.
• Minimize light at night.
• Establish a relaxing pre-sleep routine.
• Avoid alcohol and caffeine.

Inadequate sleep is associated with weight gain, changes in glucose metabolism leading to diabetes, hypertension and an increased risk of heart disease. / COLOURBOX

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Not SAD, just tired

Yawn. Think you have seasonal affective disorder? You might just be sleep-deprived.

LINDA CLARKE
letters@metro.us

Are you feeling extra sleepy now that the days are short and the nights are long? Does a dark, cold afternoon make you want to curl up and snooze? Well, it's not entirely due to the change in the seasons, according to Dr. Lawrence J. Epstein, an associate physician of sleep medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital. He says it's more likely due to year-round sleep deprivation.

"Humans don't hibernate — if people feel like sleeping longer in the winter, it's likely due to sleep problems in general," says Epstein. "Americans are just not getting enough sleep. Over the past 50 to 75 years, our sleep has been decreasing. This is not good. It causes changes in the body's physiology. It's not healthy."

Inadequate sleep is associated with weight gain, changes in glucose metabolism leading to diabetes, hypertension and an increased risk of heart disease. "People who have poor sleep don't live as long," says Epstein. "You don't feel good. Cognitive function is impaired, reaction time is slower, attention decreases and judgment is impaired."

Quoted

"Cognitive function is impaired, reaction time is slower, attention decreases and judgment is impaired."

Dr. Lawrence J. Epstein on the side effects of poor sleep

If you're feeling particularly grumpy or depressed — in addition to sleepy — this time of year, Epstein says those symptoms are more in line with seasonal affective disorder (also known by its appropriate acronym, SAD), but notes that "exposure to light usually fixes the problem."

Indeed, light exposure sets circadian rhythms (the body's internal clock), determining when we sleep. That's why some people might sleep longer in winter, when there's less daylight, and that inclination for extra sleep can be a good opportunity to establish more restful long-term sleep habits.

"You can absolutely reset your sleeping pattern," says Epstein. "It is very individual." He recommends testing out going to bed when you're sleepy and waking up when you want (if you're lucky!) to figure out what sleep schedule works best for you. "Initially, you're making up for lost sleep, [but] in two weeks, you're waking up feeling refreshed and you've found your natural sleep period."

A-LIST CAREER GUIDANCE

Jobs Advice

DAN SCHAWBEL
DANSCHAWBEL.COM
Dan Schawbel is a Generation Y career expert, the founder of Millennial Branding and the author of "Me 2.0."

I regularly interview celebrities and ask them for career strategies that can benefit you. For 2013, I've selected the best advice that will inspire you to take action and rethink how you manage your career.

Goldie Hawn has survived decades in the cutthroat Hollywood world and says your happiness has to come first. / WIREIMAGE

Goldie Hawn

"Remember that your level of happiness is the most important thing you have to protect, because once you're caught up in the rat race of work and duty and money, you do not live beyond your means. I don't care whether the person next to you is making a million bucks and you're making way less. If you judge yourself by that person, you're not judging yourself by your intrinsic joy and what makes you feel happy."

Melissa Joan Hart

"You have to be willing to take rejection. You have to have a thick skin in order to make it in this business, or any entertainment industry really. You have to have a thick skin because you're going to get rejected more times than you get rewarded."

Piers Morgan

"If you make a big mistake, admit it immediately, and apologize sincerely. There's never any upside in continuing to resist this course of action despite all the evidence to the contrary. Or, as an old editor once told me: 'If you're in the s—, get out of it a million miles an hour!'"

Malcolm Gladwell

"We learn more from compensating for our weaknesses than capitalizing on our strengths. It's your weaknesses that define who you are and how you learn, and force you to do creative things. It's making sense and working your way around your weaknesses that [you] succeed."

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Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Think matters through today. Remain calm and be mindful of what is going on around you. Make changes at home.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. An unusual plan will end up working out quite well. Innovation can bring greater opportunity to work alongside individuals who inspire you.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. You need to concentrate on improving your income, status or reputation. Look over contracts or paperwork.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Keep your ears and mind open today. It would be best to move at your own speed without relying on anyone to make choices.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Know ahead of time what needs to be done to avoid being frazzled. A moneymaking idea can be launched. Keep personal issues in perspective.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Add a personal touch to what you do, and it will be appreciated. Make a promise to someone you want to spend more time with.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Stay on top of what needs to be done and deliver on your commitments. It's not a good time to mix business with pleasure.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Venture down avenues that could lead you to learn something unusual or teach you about a culture you know little about. Plan a romantic adventure.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. If you don't like your current situation, do something. Explore new pursuits to get you thinking about future prospects.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Enjoy life and the activities, events and people that interest you. Look for a way to turn your thoughts into reality.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Dig deep, ask questions and get the answers you need to make a big move. Overly hasty action will lead to an oversight.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Get your ideas and projects off the drawing board and into the boardroom. Don't hesitate to express your beliefs.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

6	5		1					
						6	2	
					3		9	
5	7		3		1	2		6
		6	5		7	9		
9		4	8		2		1	7
	2		7					
	8	3						
					4		7	3

	7		6	4		2	3	
3		4			2			1
				3		4	6	
7		1			9			
			4			7		8
	9	6		7				
2			3			9		5
	3	5		1	4		7	

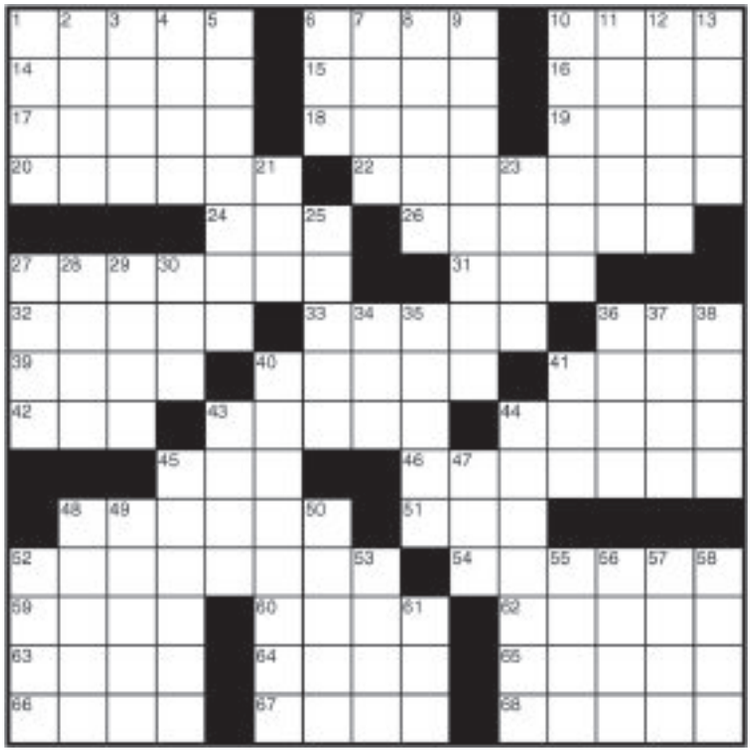
How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

Across
1 Fuji's locale
6 Cronies
10 Vindictive goddess
14 Town near Madrid
15 Jordan neighbor
16 Skip
17 Generous one
18 "Swan Lake" garb
19 Evaluate
20 Make certain
22 Speculate
24 Priest's vestment
26 Without effort
27 Martial art
31 DA's degree
32 Toughen up
33 Bull-riding event
36 Feminine principle
39 Diet
40 Disconnected
41 Go to earth
42 RCA products
43 Register for
44 Some are false
45 Refrain syllables
46 With least slack
48 Evening party
51 — Kippur
52 Violent reaction
54 Chocolate treats
59 Post-kindergarten
60 1917 abdicator
62 Because of (2 wds.)
63 Any minute
64 Icicle locale
65 Sharif and Khayyam
66 Hidden obstacle
67 Did batik
68 Bard's teen

Down
1 Green gemstone
2 Home-products brand
3 Defeats a wrestler
4 Felipe or Matty
5 Tell a story
6 Cherry seed
7 In — — (stuck)
8 Wood turner's machine
9 Informed on
10 Simply awful
11 Click "send" (hyph.)
12 Posh
13 Fit to — —
21 Windy City trains
23 Peace Prize city
25 Beyond well-done
27 Dump abruptly
28 Prof's place
29 Projects
30 Fury
34 Poetic piece
35 Pool or rice intro
36 "Holy cow!"
37 March 15, in Rome
38 Wildlife shelter
40 Removed from office
41 Sizzling
43 Tarzan's title
44 Cigar box
45 To one's —
47 Slangy approval (hyph.)
48 Drawing room
49 Lorena of golf
50 Writing assignment
52 Porgy's love
53 Be an owner
55 Type of wrestling
56 Tailor's concern
57 Raison d' —
58 Not bad (hyph.)
61 Crayola choice

Weekend's answer



Letters

Mandela on side of angels

Re: 'Nelson Mandela: From activist to world icon' (Metro, Dec. 6-8) Nelson Mandela was the living proof of peace for at least the last 60 years and you start off with "Nelson Mandela was no angel"?! Seriously? Stephen Chan claims that his school made Mandela the saint he was, but he didn't even attend the correspondence program through the University of London until after he was already serving his life sentence for fighting for equality and peace for his nation. He served his 27 years and came out not only still fighting for peace in his country, but in the entire world.

YASMIN MATTIS, VIA EMAIL

Apes Inc.

Re: 'Chimp rights case reaches court' (Metro, Dec. 5) As strange as this argument is, I'm much more comfortable with chimpanzees being people than with corporations being people. That being said, the chimps might try becoming incorporated if their original case falls through. I'm sure Tommy, LLC would have the right to contest his captivity!

ANTHONY P. FARRELL, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

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Smith shakes off recent struggles

NFL. The Jets get back to a short passing game, and their rookie QB excels again.

Geno Smith got back to using his wheels against the Raiders. / GETTY IMAGES

For one week at least, Geno Smith looked like the answer to the Jets' quarterback woes.

Against a Raiders pass defense that came into the game No. 23 in the league in passing yards allowed, Smith was tidy in a game plan clearly scaled back after three weeks of struggles. Smith finished 16-of-25 for 219 yards with a passing touchdown and rushing touchdown.

It was a reprieve for one week from the nonstop barrage of questions about whether Smith was still the starter. Last week, the Jets' offense was horrible and Smith was benched at halftime despite the fact they were down just 6-0. Smith, to his credit, rebounded.

"That's the mark of this young man. He's a resilient guy; he's shown that he can bounce back," head coach Rex Ryan said. "It was an excellent performance on his part and really the team in general. I think the way the offensive line protected, the way the receivers got open and made some great catches for him. Really, overall, a bounce back for us offensively and as a football team."

The Jets sprinkled in the run along with getting Smith moving out of the pocket by design. It kept the Raiders guessing and opened things up underneath.

Smith calls his style "within the pocket," but he had five rushes for 50 yards, including a third quarter rush of eight yards for a touchdown to put the Jets up 27-10.

"That's the thing, it's about learning when to pick your spots and when to pull it down," Smith said. "Usually on every single play, we have three or four reads, and I'm the type of guy that is going to sit back there until the last second and try to find those guys. That's just my mentality as a quarterback."

KRISTIAN DYER
sports@metro.us

Quoted

"Every single game that we've played where I've had those runs, they've ultimately sparked the team and kept drives [alive] and ended up being touchdowns."

Geno Smith, Jets QB
On his 8-yard touchdown run in the third quarter

Top 3 storylines

Jets vs. Raiders: What we learned

They live to play another day. The Jets are still mathematically alive in the playoff race at 6-7 following Sunday's 37-27 win over the Raiders.

Against a very bad Raiders team, the Jets looked explosive on offense.

Metro looks at three things we learned in the Jets' win over Oakland:

1 Geno report
A week after he led the Jets offense to just two first downs in one half of play, Smith was better but far from perfect. He had some plays, like the game's opening drive, when he faced a stout blitz, pumped and then stepped up in the pocket to complete a 32-yard pass to Santonio Holmes. On the next drive, the struggling Smith came out when he was picked off by Kevin Burnett when he locked in on Jeremy Kerley. It was a solid performance overall though.

2 Platooning Reed
After three weeks of struggles, the Jets finally did what they should have done all along and played veteran safety Ed Reed in passing situations. It worked, as Reed wasn't exposed in run defense and he did well in pass coverage. He had an interception in the second quarter and the secondary limited the big plays through the air. The Jets have found a solution that maximizes Reed's talents and allows safety Antonio Allen to develop.

3 Run option
With their top-two running backs, Rashad Jennings and Darren McFadden, inactive with injuries, the Raiders turned to fullback Marcel Reece to lift what was the league's fifth-best ground game. Reece, who had 77 rushing yards on 22 carries coming into the game, exploded. His 113 yards on 19 carries bested his career-high of 103 yards. It is a worrisome trend for the Jets, who boast the league's best run defense statistically. KRISTIAN DYER

Allen comes up big with additional playing time

With Antonio Allen on the field, the Jets' secondary was faster and more efficient than they had been in the last three weeks.

Allen also had a punt block in the second quarter that helped give the Jets a major lift in a game they had to win. He also fell on the loose ball in the end zone for the touchdown. Allen said "it felt weird" that he was set free up the middle on the punt, but he extended his arms and blocked it with both hands.

"It's a great feeling. It puts momentum in the team, makes us want to go out there and fight harder," Allen said. "We did that, came out there and got a win after three losses. It's pretty big." KRISTIAN DYER

3 SPORTS

Watch online

Find video and recaps of yesterday's Jets-Raiders and Giants-Chargers games at: Metro.us/sports.

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BY STEVE MUELLER
Men's Health Consultant

NEW YORK • Local physicians at a new medical office in New York are so sure their medication will help men with erectile dysfunction, they are offering the first 37 callers a free in-office medication dose.

Erectile dysfunction and premature ejaculation have long been a problem for millions of men, in spite of the popularity of Viagra, Cialis and Levitra. Many men aren't helped by these pills or cannot take them due to adverse side effects.

New York Men's Medical custom blends over 180 combinations of medications for each patient. "That's why our success rate is so high," says Dr. Kevin Hornsby, M.D. and author of the book *"A Doctor's Guide to Erectile Dysfunction."* "We help men as old as ninety-four, with diabetes, prostate surgery and heart conditions. Regardless of their age or medical history our results everyday are amazing."

All medications are FDA approved, and no surgery is involved. "We adjust the prescription for a man's performance to 45-minutes, an hour, 90-minutes or longer," according to Dr. Hornsby, "and patients see results right in our office. After climax the patient stays erect the entire period of time. This allows them to achieve a second climax and adequately satisfy their partner. No other medication can do this. We offer a simple guarantee: If you don't respond to the medication on the first visit the office visit is free." With that guarantee, local patients have nothing to lose.

Openings are filling quickly for the free in-office medication dose, after that the normal fees will be charged. Patients see a licensed New York physician and are assured of utmost privacy and professionalism with private waiting rooms and an all male staff. Further information is available by calling.

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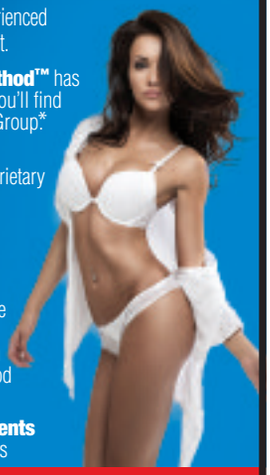

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Eli Manning finished 20-of-32 for 259 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions. / GETTY IMAGES

Playoff hopes come to ugly end for Giants

NFL. The Chargers cruised to victory to officially eliminate New York.

The Giants have three games remaining in the regular season, but their campaign is over following a horrific 37-14 loss to the Chargers.

New York came to San Diego with their playoff hopes on life support and they flatlined as the Chargers raced out to a 24-0 halftime lead and never looked back at their wounded opponent.

The Chargers (6-7) kept their slim playoff chances alive behind the efforts of Philip Rivers (21-of-28 for 249 yards and three touchdowns), running backs Ryan Mathews (a game-high 103 rushing yards) and Danny Woodhead (94 total yards and a score) and wideout Keenan Allen (two touchdown receptions) as San Diego piled up 390 yards of total offense — 145 of them via the ground.

The Giants (5-8) were grounded on offense for most of the game, as they committed three total turnovers and had only 333 total yards. The offense never seemed to get on track — a death knell to a season that had one foot in the grave within the first few minutes of the contest.

Quarterback Eli Manning got things started off on the wrong foot, as he was picked off by Donald Butler on the Giants' second possession of the game.

Giants wideout Hakeem Nicks finally had a breakout game, but those numbers were in vain. Nicks, who has struggled mightily in his contact year, amassed 135 yards on five receptions but they had little to no impact on the outcome of the game.

TONY WILLIAMS
sports@metro.us

By the numbers

8

The Giants haven't won fewer than eight games since 2004, when the team was 6-10 in Tom Coughlin's first season. They'll have to win out to reach 8-8 this season.

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